REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims of the captioned application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, Applicant's attorney wishes to thank Examiner Cohen for her courtesy in discussing the rejection and the distinctions over the prior art.

The essence of the present invention is a method and apparatus for determining the length of at least one of the legs of the workpiece after it has been bent in the bending die in which it is still seated. This allows the determination of the further processing which may be required to conform to the workpiece predetermined criteria.

The independent claims have been amended to clearly emphasize that the determination of the length of the leg is performed while the workpiece is still in the bending die. Claim 7 has been amended into more appropriate method steps. Claim 25 has also been amended to cure the objection which had been noted by the Examiner.

As was discussed, the prior art patents to Satorio et al and Kouno et al do not anticipate or render obvious the defined invention, either singly or in combination. In fact, Satorio et al and Kouno et al are illustrative of a large number of patents disclosing various techniques for measuring angular

relationships, but not length of a leg, while the workpiece is still in the bending die.

Sartorio et al. relates to a method and to an apparatus for detecting/measuring folding angles formed between adjacent portions of a bent metal sheet (e.g. Col. 1, Lines 8-21). For effecting this detection/measuring, the distance between the bent sheet portions and the associated flanks of a bending tool are measured (e.g. 1, Col. 5, Line 13 - Col 6, Line 16; Fig. 2; Col 8, Lines 9-45; Fig 6; Col. 9, Lines 1-17).

Kouno et al discloses an apparatus and a method for measuring an angle of a bent workpiece (Col. 1, Lines 6-9). For measuring, light is emitted onto the two legs of an angular workpiece so as to produce a linear light pattern on the surfaces of the legs. The pattern is picked up in a direction and projected on a coordinate plane as an image. By processing of the light pattern, inclinations of the light pattern with a coordinate axis of the coordinate place are detected and the folding angle between the legs of the workpiece is obtained (Col. 1, Line 62 - Col.2, Line 14). For determining the folding angle, inter alia, the width and the height of the legs of the bent workpiece, but not the length of said legs, are taken into consideration (Figures 1-3c, Col. 3, Line 54 - Col 4, Line 55).

Neither of these patents suggests the claimed invention wherein the length of at least one leg of a bent workpiece is readily measured while it is still in the bending die.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims of the application clearly define a novel and unobvious method and apparatus for determining the length of at least one of the legs of a bent workpiece while that workpiece is retained in the bending die, and early allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

ARMIN HORN

Peter L. Costas
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 18,637
(860) 241-2630

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